

Applicant: Ross, Robert, Jr. Appl. No. 09/714,997

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-9, 11-20 remain pending in the application, with claims 1, 5, 9, and 18 being the independent claims. Claims 9, 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended as indicated above to now even more clearly claim Applicant's claimed invention. Claim 10 is canceled, and incorporated into claim 9. These changes are not believed to introduce any new matter.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

In the Action on page 9, claims 1-8 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing these claims.

Objections to the Claims

In the Action on pages 2-3, claims 12 and 13 are objected to for informalities. Claim 12 is amended to correct the informalities noted in the Action. Applicant's version of claim 13 did not contain the informality noted in the Action. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Action on pages 3-4, claims 10 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement regarding the recited phrase "without the user being aware of a location of said user-assignable personal file folder in any file folder hierarchy." Applicant has removed the recited phrase, and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In the Action on page 4-5, claims 10, 13, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being (1) indefinite regarding the recited phrase "without the user being

Applicant: Ross, Robert, Jr. Appl. No. 09/714,997

aware of a location of said user-assignable personal file folder in any file folder hierarchy", and (2) unclear regarding the phrase "a dynamic, active read receipt report."

Regarding (1), Applicant has removed the recited phrase, and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding (2), claim 13 is amended to recite "continually updated." Support for the amendment may be found, for example, on page 11, last line.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Action on pages 6-9, claims 9, 10, 14, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Microsoft Outlook 2000 Step by Step" (hereinafter "Outlook"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant's amendments are believed to render moot the current rejection. Claim 10 is canceled. Applicant's claims 9, 14, 17, and 18, as amended, set forth a system and computer readable medium that differ in several important ways from the applied reference, as discussed in detail below:

As amended, claim 9 recites:

An electronic message system comprising:

a user selectable save message instruction operative, upon a selection by the user of a single user interface element, to automatically store in one of one or more user selected user-assignable personal file folders, a user selected previously received message, wherein said user selected user-assignable personal file folder is associated with a sender of said previously received message, tagged by one of an email address or a username of the sender of said message.

Emphasis added. Outlook fails to teach or suggest all the elements of claim 9.

Outlook fails to teach or suggest a "***user selectable save message instruction operative, upon a selection by the user of a single user interface element, to automatically store in one of one or more user selected user-assignable personal file folders, a user selected previously received message.***" Instead, in Outlook, once a rule has been created by a user to automatically store a received message in a user-specified folder, Outlook applies the rules automatically, with no input from the user. In contrast, the present invention includes a single user interface element,

Applicant: Ross, Robert, Jr. Appl. No. 09/714,997

e.g. a button, that allows the user to automatically store received messages if the element is selected, but otherwise does not store the received message in one of one or more user selected user-assignable personal file folders.

Alternatively, Outlook may provide the ability for a user to select an e-mail message, and move the message to a specified folder with a "Move" button. Outlook, page 73. However, the "Organize" function that provides the "move" button brings up a folder selection menu that defaults to the *last accessed folder*. The user must select the desired folder first, each time, before using the "Move" button. In either case, Outlook does not teach or suggest "a user selectable save message instruction operative, upon a selection by the user of a single user interface element, to automatically store in one of one or more user selected user-assignable personal file folders, a user selected previously received message, wherein said user selected user-assignable personal file folder is associated with a sender of said previously received message, tagged by one of an email address or a username of the sender of said message."

In contrast, the present invention includes a user selectable save message instruction operative, upon a selection by the user of a single user interface element, to automatically store in one of one or more user selected user-assignable personal file folders, a user selected previously received message, wherein said user selected user-assignable personal file folder is associated with a sender of said previously received message, tagged by one of an email address or a username of the sender of said message. Unlike Outlook, Applicant's invention teaches a system to automatically store a previously received message, to a user selected user-assignable **personal file folder associated with the sender** of the message, tagged to the sender's username or email address. This feature advantageously may allow a user to quickly save received messages to the user-assignable folder associated with the sender of the previously received email. The user may file messages to that assigned personal file folder automatically, using, e.g., but not limited to, just a single click after the assignment of the personal file folder. Being able to assign a folder to a given sender allows easy and rapid future saving of messages from that sender. The present invention is much simpler than the convention process which requires dragging and dropping the message onto a particular folder within a hierarchical file folder user interface file manager. The

Applicant: Ross, Robert, Jr. Appl. No. 09/714,997

present invention is also much simpler than a user's conventional browsing through a hierarchy of folders each time that the user receives a message from that sender, to try to find the folder associated with that sender, since now the folder has been assigned to the sender. Thus, the claimed invention of claim 9 is useful, it is novel over the conventional art, including the applied reference, and the feature is non-obvious by fulfilling a longfelt need of an easier way to organize and store messages received in a general inbox, as mentioned in the applied reference. Thus, claim 9 is patentable for at least the above reasons over the applied reference.

Claim 10 is canceled. Claims 14 and 17 depend from claim 9, and are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim.

As amended, claim 18 recites:

A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which when executed by a computing platform, cause said computing platform to perform operations comprising a method comprising:

receiving, via a selection by the user of a single user interface element, an instruction to store a previously received message in a user selected one of one or more user assignable personal file folders associated with a sender of said previously received message, tagged by one of an email address or username of the sender of said message, wherein said instruction comprises at least one of a command and/or a user interface element; and

storing said message in said folder.

Emphasis added. Outlook fails to teach or suggest all the elements of claim 18.

Claim 18 is allowable for at least the reasons given regarding claim 9. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18 and are allowable as being dependent from an allowable claim.

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Applicant: Ross, Robert, Jr. Appl. No. 09/714,997

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: November 15, 2006

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